

Remarks/Arguments**Support for Amendments.**

The amendment to page 1 adds the cross-reference to the applications from which this one claims priority, and does not constitute the addition of new matter to the application.

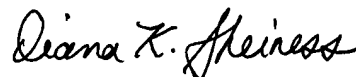
Claims 1 to 26 have been cancelled and new claims 27-44 have been entered into the application as indicated above.

Support for new claims 27-44 is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 6, line 26 to page 7, line 17; page 7, lines 31 to page 8, line 14; page 12, line 32 to page 13, line 13; page 24, line 31 to page 27, line 32; and page 47, line 5 to page 54, line 31. Accordingly, these new claims do not constitute the addition of new matter to the application.

Claims 27 to 44 above were copied in substance from U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944, which issued July 16, 2002. Claims 27 to 44 have been copied into this application in accord with 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) in order to ensure the Applicants' right to request an interference with U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944. By copying these claims from U.S. Patent No. 6,419,944, Applicants do not necessarily assert that all of the subject matter described in these claims is patentable. Applicants will timely file an Information Disclosure Statement in this application.

Conclusion. To ensure efficient handling of this application, it is suggested that the Examiner telephone counsel prior to initiating examination. Counsel can be reached at her direct dial number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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